

was stationed as part of a five-man watch in Northern France. Early that morning, Johnson and a fellow soldier were attacked by 24 Germans. Johnson's companion was wounded and captured. When his rifle subsequently jammed, Sergeant Johnson used his bayonet and a knife to kill and wound several Germans. He eventually freed his companion and drove the Germans off, before succumbing to the nearly two dozen wounds he suffered himself.

For his actions in battle, the Government of France awarded its highest military honor to Sergeant Johnson, the Croix de Guerre with Gold Palm. Yet he received nothing from his own country until 1997, when he was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, a decoration which all U.S. personnel are entitled to if wounded in combat.

Henry Johnson returned to civilian life after the war and attempted to resume his old job as a railway porter. However, his wounds prevented this and he died penniless in 1937.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Johnson's case is not unique among African-American veterans of World War I, but it is the most egregious. It is not as if the U.S. Army was totally ignorant of his accomplishments. There is ample evidence that his profile and his story were used to sell war bonds in African-American communities in the closing days of the war. Moreover, in 1976, the Army had no problem featuring him in a U.S. Army recruiting poster. Yet to this day, more than 83 years after the fighting stopped on the Western Front, elements of the military are resisting awarding Sergeant Johnson the Medal of Honor.

Last year, after a 4-year long review, outgoing Secretary of the Army Caldera approved a recommendation that Henry Johnson be awarded the Medal of Honor. Last spring, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Shelton recommended against such an award stating that "proper procedure" had not been followed in the application process.

I believe that any reasonable person would be able to see that it would be impossible to follow outlined procedure in this case, 83 years after the fact. The chief requirement for the award, eyewitness testimony, is an unreachable goal in that any such persons in this instance are long dead. Moreover, it is absurd to argue that Sergeant Johnson should have submitted an application for the award within the proscribed time frame of 3 years. Given the entrenched and pervasive racism that existed in American society and the Army in 1921, it is not a stretch of logic to say such an effort would have been fruitless.

It is for this reason that this legislation further requires the Army to revisit the service records of every other African-American soldier from World War I who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross or the French Croix De Guerre to determine if a medal upgrade or additional award of the Medal of Honor is warranted.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has belatedly acknowledged that certain African-American and Asian-American veterans of World War II were unjustly denied proper recognition for military service above and beyond the call of duty. It is now time for us to admit that one debt remains to be paid: The proper acknowledgement of the courageous service of African-American veterans in World War I.

The American veterans of World War I have almost all departed. The VA estimated that ap-

proximately 1,000 remained alive at the start of fiscal year 2002. It is long past time for us to recognize the service of Henry Johnson and his fellow African-American soldiers in World War I. When he first brought this issue before this House in 1987, my former colleague from New York, Representative DiGuardi, in criticizing the Pentagon's aversion to review the cases of Black veterans from the World Wars for possible medal upgrades, stated that "The statute of limitations was established for criminals, not war heroes."

With this legislation, we have an opportunity to correct a longstanding injustice, a glaring blot on the noble and historic legacy of the United States Army. These cases have been referred to by some as the last loose ends of World War I. It is now time to close out this unfinished business.

TRIBUTE TO TRAVERSE CITY WEST SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the administration, staff, and students of Traverse City West Senior High School, a school in northern Michigan. In just four years Traverse City West has distinguished itself through the academic success of its students and through national recognition of the school's visual and performing arts programs.

Barbara M. White, a distinguished former president at Mills College in Oakland, California, is quoted as saying, "The basic purpose of a liberal arts education is to liberate the human being to exercise his or her potential to the fullest." Upon hearing those words, I'm sure most listeners would immediately think of a college or university education, but Traverse City West Senior High is preparing its students for a successful life at the high school level.

The school's fine arts curriculum includes a choral program with six performing groups, band and orchestra, an award-winning newspaper and yearbook, theater arts, video and production; there are classes in photography, pottery, ceramics, metals, jewelry, drawing and painting, sculpture, computer art and traditional American arts.

For those students not taking formal arts classes, the Humanities program includes extensive exposure to painting, sculpture, music, dance and film. The arts are incorporated into the science, math and language areas, according to the expertise of the teacher and in collaboration with the arts department. Finally, the school itself is decorated with art murals and stained glass windows designed by students, and music is incorporated into classroom study and even staff meetings.

The study of other cultures, other peoples and other times is part of the school's comprehensive learning environment. Mr. Speaker, these programs have strong parental support for projects and field trips. Accustomed as we may be to booster clubs for sports programs, this "booster" spirit for the study of arts, crafts and humanities must be viewed as unique at the high school level.

I do not rise today, Mr. Speaker, to propose that Traverse City West Senior High be taken

as the model for all high schools. I rise merely to point out that a combination of hard work and a rich environment can produce academic success. For example, in 2000 Traverse City West received the Governor's Cup for the big North Conference for having the most Michigan Merit Award recipients, and its total placed it sixth in the state. The Michigan Merit Award is a college scholarship based upon performance on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program. I should note that this number is more remarkable when one considers that Traverse City West received the least amount of money per student of the top ten schools listed, and it had the highest percentage of students on the free and reduced lunch program.

Consider, too, that in the four years Traverse City West Senior High has been open, its students have scored above the state and national average on the ACT test. In 1999/2000 its composite ACT score was 21.8, compared to a Michigan average of 21.3 and a national average of 21.0. As I mentioned earlier, the school's newspaper and yearbook have been honored statewide, its theater department recognized nationally, and its music department a finalist in an international competition.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of the administration, staff, parents and students at Traverse City West High School to acknowledge the arts an essential part of education has now been recognized nationally. The school was recently notified it is the winner of the "Creative Ticket National School of Distinction Award" from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As a result of this award, a representative group of students has been invited to travel here to Washington to perform at the Kennedy Center and to perform at a congressional breakfast celebrating National Arts Day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in praise of the hard work and dedication of the administration, staff, parents and students of Traverse City West High School, a young school with a classical notion of a well-rounded education.

CONGRATULATING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT ON ITS BICENTEN- NIAL ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, "to educate, train, and inspire the corps of cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of duty, honor, country; professional growth throughout a career as an officer in the United States Army; and a lifetime of selfless service to the nation."

That is the mission of an outstanding institution of rich history and formidable pride, our West Point Military Academy, along the shores of our historic Hudson River.

More than 200 years ago, Gen. George Washington, recognizing the strategic importance of West Point, established fortifications

in our war against the British. There, along the west bank of the Hudson River, during the founding of our Nation, West Point was born.

Further recognizing our national need to develop an institution dedicated to the arts and sciences of warfare, Thomas Jefferson signed legislation establishing the U.S. Military Academy in 1802. Over the last two centuries, West Point Military Academy has grown to become one of the most revered institutions of its kind, training young men and women to become great leaders and proud soldiers. Among the distinguished list of Academy graduates are names which have changed the history of our Nation and our world, including Grant, Lee, Sherman, Jackson, Eisenhower, MacArthur, Bradley, Arnold, Clark, and Patton.

In these trying times for our Nation, as many of the service men and women are defending freedom in Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world, it is a fitting tribute to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the citadel of freedom.

The leadership which West Point has provided to our Nation and which will continue to provide for years to come is an inspiration to every American.

West Point is more than just an Academy, it is a pillar of our Nation, and a symbol of our Nation's rich past and fruitful future.

This prestigious Academy is a tribute to the strength of America and our right as free people to pursue life, liberty, and happiness.

The history of West Point is the story of America—a distinguished tale to tell.

God bless West Point and God bless America.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2002 APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE WYANDOTTE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on March 4, I placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an extension of remarks, that included a letter from Leaford Bearskin, the chief of the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma, concerning congressional actions last year that affected his Tribe. Due to space limitations, I was unable to include correspondence from organizations in the Third District of Kansas supporting the Wyandotte Tribe Settlement Act, referred to by Chief Bearskin. I have included the nine letters below.

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY/KANSAS CITY, KANSAS,

Kansas City, KS, October 20, 1999.

Hon. DON YOUNG, Chairman, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: On behalf of the citizens of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, I would like to thank you for your efforts in sponsoring H.R. 1533, The Wyandotte Tribe Settlement Act, and strongly

urge you to continue your efforts to move this critical piece of legislation though Congress before it adjourns.

The citizens here, overwhelmingly, endorsed gaming at the Woodlands by an 80 percent vote in 1997. The passage of H.R. 1533 and similar legislation in the Senate would allow the Wyandotte Nation the opportunity to open a gaming facility at the Woodlands and greatly enhance the economy of this city and county. There is already widespread gaming throughout the State of Kansas and in the Kansas City area. This bill would allow the citizens of Wyandotte County to realize economic gains that are currently not available to them.

Your continued efforts are greatly appreciated, and if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

CAROL MARINOVICH,
Mayor/CEO.

THE KANSAS CITY, KANSAS AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Kansas City, KS, October 20, 1999.

Hon. DON YOUNG,

Chairman, House Resources Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN YOUNG: I am writing to once again reiterate this organization's support for and to thank you for your efforts to expedite the passage of H.R. 1533: The Wyandotte Tribe Settlement Act of 1999.

As you know the by-product of this legislation will have a significant impact not only on the economic well being of the Wyandotte Nation, but certainly for our community at well. I believe that the passage of H.R. 1533 will allow the Wyandotte Nation to exercise certain rights afforded to them via the Indian Gaming Act of 1988. This also would create an opportunity for the Wyandotte Nation and the current ownership of the Woodlands greyhound and thoroughbred pari-mutuel racetrack to negotiate an agreement for a Tribal Casino. The Woodlands would be greatly aided by this arrangement.

Congressman Young, legalized games of chance and casino gaming are not unknown to our community, nor to the State of Kansas. There is already legalized gaming just across the state line in metropolitan Kansas City, Missouri, and there are several Tribal Casino operations in the State of Kansas. H.R. 1533 will allow for a win-win situation for our community, the State of Kansas as well as the Wyandotte Nation.

Thanking you in advance for your support and sponsorship of H.R. 1533, I am

Sincerely,

DERYL W. WYNN,
Chairman of the
Board, Kansas City,
Kansas Area Chamber
of Commerce.

DAN SCHENKEIN,
President, Kansas
City, Kansas Area
Chamber of Commerce.

GREATER KANSAS CITY BUILDING
AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO,

Independence, MO October 19, 1999.

Hon. Congressman DON YOUNG, Chairman House Resources Committee, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: I am writing this letter in strong support of House Bill 1533, regarding the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma's request for due compensation from Congress for lands and rights issues pertaining to the Treaty of 1855.

The successful passage of H.B. 1533 will create significant benefits for the Kansas City Metropolitan Area, not to mention specifically the working class community of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County. In a unique area of our metro-plex where employment opportunities are needed most, Kansas City, Kansas and its residents will significantly benefit from your efforts towards H.B. 1533 successful passage.

On behalf of the rank and file of the Greater Kansas City Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO I urge your continued diligence on H.B. 1533.

Sincerely,

GARRY KEMP,
Exec. Sec./Business
Manager, Greater
Kansas City Building
& Construction
Trades Council.

AFL-CIO TRI-COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL OF EASTERN KANSAS UNION
LABEL & SERVICE TRADES—AREA
COPE,

Kansas City, KS, October 20, 1999.

Hon. Congressman DON YOUNG, Chairman, House Resources Committee, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: I am writing this letter in strong support of House Bill 1533, regarding the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma's request for due compensation from Congress for lands and rights issues pertaining to the Treaty of 1855.

The successful passage of H.B. 1533 will create significant benefits for the Kansas City Metropolitan Area, not to mention specifically the working class community of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County. In a unique area of our metro-plex where employment opportunities are needed most, Kansas City, Kansas and its residents will significantly benefit from your efforts towards H.B. 1533's successful passage.

On behalf of the rank and file of the AFL-CIO Tri-County Labor Council of Eastern Kansas, I urge your continued diligence on H.B. 1533.

Sincerely,

JIM HADEL,
President, Tri-County Labor Council.

WYANDOT NATION OF KANSAS, INC.,
Kansas City, KS, July 11, 1998.

Re Wyandot Nation of Kansas and the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma Settlement.

Hon. DON YOUNG, Rayburn House Office Building, United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN YOUNG. On May 19, 1998, Congressman Vincent Snowbarger and Holly Zane, Attorney General of the Wyandot Nation of Kansas, authored letters which reference a controversy between the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma and the Wyandot Nation of Kansas regarding the use of the Huron Cemetery. This letter advises you that this controversy has been resolved by the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma and the Wyandot Nation of Kansas. The settlement prohibits the use of the Huron Cemetery for any use other than religious, cultural or those compatible with the use of the land as a burial ground.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

WYANDOT NATION OF KANSAS, INC.